

SPIRITUAL LIFE MINUTES, ST. JOHN PAUL PARISH, 10/26/15

Members in attendance: Mary Whitman, Diane & Elizabeth Wyman, Pat Clairmont, Barb Armata, Karen Ketcham, Mary Ann Wojtaszek, Robin Loughman, Father Steve.

Opening prayer was given by Mary Ann.

Previous meeting's minutes were accepted.

Elections: Barb and Mary were re-elected co-chairs and representatives to parish council, Robin Loughman was re-elected secretary.

Relic of Saint John Paul: The installation Mass with Bishop Rozanski went smoothly. There was good TV coverage from Time Warner cable news channel 7. Many thanks and compliments to Randy Wyman for the beautiful reliquary cabinets he created for both the John Paul and the Saint Anne relics, using wood from the pews of Saint Thomas Church. He is currently working on a similar cabinet to display the Saint Faustina relic in Saint Stan's. This relic was previously just sitting out in the open on a shelf under the Divine Mercy painting.

An All Souls Day Mass of Remembrance is scheduled for Monday, November 2nd, 7 pm at Notre Dame Church. A tea light will be lit as each name of all those parishioners who passed away in the past year are read during the prayers of the faithful. A letter has been sent to families inviting them to attend. As of today there are 77 parishioners who passed away in the past year, 11/2/14 to 11/1/15.

Year of Mercy (12/8/12 to 11/8/16) ideas were discussed. Father had suggested day trips to shrines in the area. Mary has been checking out shrines and looking for bus companies. She found Diamond Tours out of Connecticut which does Catholic shrine trips. Robin suggested Travel Kuz from Gill, MA. There is no rush on this, since we would not be able to do anything til the spring when the weather is better. We will need to decide if this would be weekdays, or a Saturday. If we went to Eastern Mass we would be able to do several shrines in one day. Some shrines mentioned were Loretto and Saint Ann's in Vermont, LaSalette in Attleboro, Lourdes in Litchfield, CT, Shrine of the North American Martyrs in Auriesville NY.

There will be a Novena leading up to the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy, to be said after daily Mass, and each weekend Mass, starting on Monday, November 30th. The last day of the Novena will be December 8th. Father Steve is waiting to see if the diocese has an official, special prayer for this.

Wednesdays after morning Mass at Notre Dame, there will be veneration of the John Paul relic, with a Chaplet of Divine Mercy being said. This could be done with a playing a CD of the Chaplet. This will start on December 9th.

Father Steve is also planning to do an extra weekday Mass each week, Wednesday evenings, in addition to the morning Mass. It will be at 6 pm, at St. Stan's, with confessions from 5:30 to 6. This is to accommodate parishioners who work during the day and may be able to attend in the evening, and to offer additional confession times for those who find it difficult to go on Saturdays.

New business: There will be a Thanksgiving Day Mass at 9 am at Notre Dame. Parishioners will be invited to take home the old missal books when the new ones arrive, to help cut down on disposal costs. There will be a vespers prayer service on Sunday December 13th at 6 pm at St. Stan's. This will feature advent music. Lastly, the parish office will order oplatek this year.

The meeting adjourned at 7 pm with a prayer led by Father Steve. Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 30th at 6 pm in Kolbe Hall.

Respectfully Submitted, Robin Loughman